

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A composite material prepared by bonding rubber to the surface of a brass-plated material obtained by plating the surface of a substrate with brass or to the surface of a brass material by vulcanization,

wherein needle-like Cu-S-based reaction products are formed at the bonding interface between brass and rubber, ~~and~~

wherein preheating is carried out at 80 to 120°C before vulcanization,

wherein when the section of the bonding interface between brass and rubber is observed through a transmission electron microscope, 1 to 50 needle-like Cu-S-based reaction products having a length L of 10 nm or more and a ratio of the length L to the width W (L/W) of 5 or more are existent based on 1 μ m in the length of the section of the bonding interface.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 1, wherein the brass-plated material or brass material is a steel cord or bead wire for tires.

Claim 4 (Original): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 3, wherein the composite material is a tire.

Claim 5 (New): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 1, wherein the number of needle-like Cu-S-based reaction products is 2 to 40.

Claim 6 (New): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 1, wherein the number of needle-like Cu-S-based reaction products is 3 to 30.

Claim 7 (New): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 1, wherein the preheating temperature is 90 to 110°C.

Claim 8 (New): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 1, wherein the brass-plated material has a copper content of 50 to 90 wt % and a zinc content of 50 to 10 wt %.

Claim 9 (New): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 3, wherein the steel cord has a copper content of 60 to 70 wt % and a zinc content of 40 to 30 wt %.

Claim 10 (New): The rubber-bonded brass composite material according to claim 1, wherein a preheating time before vulcanization ranges from 2 to less than 20 minutes.